

**The Maine Farmer.**

B. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man.

Exhaustion of the Soil.

To exhaust a soil is, in common language, to render it absolutely unproductive; and few terms are often used in speaking of our system of farming, than to say of some soils that they are "run out," "in poor condition," "exhausted," &c. The question is, are not these terms misapplied, and is there, in fact, such a thing as the exhaustion of the soil? This subject has recently been considered by Mr. J. H. Lawes—to whom careful, patient and long-continued experiments at Rothamsted, England, the agricultural world is so largely indebted for huge piles of facts showing the effects both of good and bad farming—accounts of which we find in late foreign journals. The paper lately read by Mr. Lawes before the Central Farmers' Club, London, while occupied with the question as affecting the rights of tenants to receive compensation from the landlord or incoming tenant for the permanent improvement made in the soil, contains also important considerations for our own farmers.

The experiments of Mr. Lawes in the production of wheat upon the same land, without rotation, for a period of twenty-six years in succession, show most astonishing results. In carrying out this experiment, in no instance has any attempt been made to increase the productiveness of the land by either subsoiling or deep plowing; though, doubtless, great care has been taken to keep the land as free from weeds as possible. These several experiments were undertaken to show the effect of growing wheat after wheat with the application of manure of any kind, not even its own straw, for twenty-six years; of having after barley, for nearly an equal period, also unmannered; of other portions of the land for a similar period, manured with farm-yard dung every year; of other wheat manured with phosphatic manure, and of other wheat manured with ammoniacal artificial; and further of the four-course system, namely, wheat, turnips, barley, and beans, which will also, over a period of ten years, be found to have given the best results.

"To sum up the chief points of these illustrations of the result or limit of the fertility of a somewhat heavy loam by no means extraordinary quality, it had yielded an annual average produce per acre, without any manure at all, of 153 bushels of wheat for 26 years; of 204 bushels of barley for 18 years; of 231 cwt. (112 lbs.) each acre for 14 years; and of 160 bushels for 29 years of oats, averaging over the last four courses, or 10 years, of 40 bushels of barley, 124 bushels of beans, and 34 bushels of wheat. I confess," says he, "that my view of the productive capabilities of heavy, or even moderately heavy, soils, has been considerably altered by the various experiments to which I have referred. Formerly, I supposed that a very few years of consecutive corn (grain) growing would suffice to reduce the corn (grain) growing capability of any ordinary soil to practically nothing; but now, after a great deal of thought and a very little reflection, will show how essential it is for the well-being, if not indeed for the existence of man, that the elements of fertility should be so locked up and distributed throughout the soil, as to be capable of being taken up by crops very gradually, and to be available for the benefit of the next crop. Landlords or indigent tenants could have drawn upon the locked up elements upon which the maintenance of the natural or standard fertility of the soil would remain in England. It has sometimes been argued that the soil is not worth the cultivation, and that a support for the farmer, to which the cultivator must attach himself, is the only one that can be had."

Breeding and Rearing of Horses.

We present a brief abstract of a paper upon the above subject from the pen of Mr. J. D. Badham, an English breeder and agricultural writer of considerable note.

Certainties in horse breeding are fallacious, yet we must be guided by general rules, and the breeder who carefully studies the selection of both sire and dam will far out-reckon breeders. One great object should be to produce an animal as near perfection as possible, for this and the sire chosen should be possessed of those points in which the dam may be deficient.

The selection of a good mare is of the greatest importance, so much so that you very scarcely see a bad horse of any class from a really good mare, and there is scarcely an instance of extraordinary merit but the prevailing points of excellence could be traced in the same to the dam. At the same time we must not overlook the importance of good sires for without these we shall assuredly fail in our attempts to breed a good animal.

The systematic breeder never allows any chance work to creep into his concerns. He selects each and every animal he intends to breed from, of both sexes, and those which he can trace back to of unquestionable parents in their class. Like breeds like. Temper, power, endurance, spirit generally follow the dam; form, action, &c., the sire. Soundness is an essential point in a sire, the mare.

It is a notorious fact that there are certain diseases to which parents are the subjects and which will descend in the progeny. Ringbones and sidebones are hereditary in almost any form. Indeed, the former come out after many generations. Blindness, a special disease of horses, is certain to follow breeds, and on no account should those of either sex affected with it be used for breeding. Diseases of the respiratory organs, as running, whistling, broken and thick wind, are all hereditary in their character. Diseases in the feet should be carefully avoided. It is more important to have both sire and dam in a healthy condition, as the progeny of sickly-framed animals are sure to inherit some of their failings.

A pedigree of undoubted purity is of great value to the stud. The shun the mate which is the result of a close relationship. Butter is often spoiled by smoke. Potatoes, herbs, roots, &c., should not be placed near milk. Soft woods, root, &c., should not be placed near meat, which is deleterious in its effect. White oak is good. Dark wood of the nature of mahogany should be avoided in the manger room. Pans should not be placed near the stove.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Congressional Summary.

Forty-First Congress—Second Session.

Wednesday, July 15.
Senate. Mr. Sherman, of the committee on taxes and tariff bills, introduced a bill, which was adopted. He stated that the most important of the Senate amendments were agreed to by the House. Relative to the tariff on sugar the committee reported a classification, which was in substance the same bill with a slight reduction on molasses sugar and取消了 higher grades of sugar, and the duties on books and heavier steel remained as passed by the Senate. All assistant assessors now engaged in assessing taxes, who are struck out by the bill, are to be immediately discharged and supernumeraries of districts are to be compensated for the extra receipts and tonnage taxes are both repealed.

Mr. Sherman also submitted the report of the conference committee on the funding bill, which was adopted.

The Committee provided for three classes of debts as follows:—Two hundred millions at 5 per cent.; \$600,000,000 at 6 per cent.; and \$600,000,000 at 7 per cent.

The expenses of the administration have been fixed at \$4,125,000, and under the control of the Secretary of the treasury.

The seventh section, relating to national banks, has been stricken out, leaving merely a voluntary funding bill. The power of the Senate, which had been struck out by the House, but by Sherman was restored, all times to require national banks to take the bonds proposed by the bill. The reduction of taxes effected by the tax bill would amount to \$76,000,000.

Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution instructing the Military Committee to inquire into the treatment of J. W. Smith, a colored cadet, at West Point, with the power to sit during the recess, which went over until to-morrow.

Mr. Wilson introduced a bill giving bounty to soldiers honorably discharged from the service. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

The House took up the motion made yesterday by Mr. Davis, of Massachusetts, to suspend the rules and adjourn a resolution directing the House visitors to West Point to investigate the complaint of a colored cadet. The motion was adopted.

The Senate voted to the miscellaneous appropriation bill, which was non-concurred in, and referred to a conference committee.

A conference committee was ordered on the army appropriation bill.

Mr. Schenck, from the conference committee on the tax and tariff bill, made a report, which having been read, was referred to the Senate. He calculated that the bill would reduce the entire taxes \$50,000,000 and the customs receipts \$29,000,000, and he would not hesitate to say that the reduction to be effected by the bill, compared with the weight of its object, is not so great.

After a vote of 2 to 1, Mr. Schenck, of Illinois, and Austria are making efforts to prevent a rupture, but so far they have made no progress.

Speaker Declares War Against Prussia.

PALIS, July 15.—The Corps Legislatif passed a vote deploring war against Prussia at 1:50 P. M.

Palis, July 15.—The Emperor, accompanied by the Minister of War, the Emperor of St. Cloud last night, where the council was resumed and lasted far into the night. Baron Werther was on the post of starting again for Eys next winter when the Prussian message arrived with counter orders. Marshal Randon has gone to Algeria to command the expeditionary force, and General MacMahon, the minister of Austria to Berlin is now in Paris and has had an interview with the Emperor.

The Emperor received a despatch from Queen Victoria this morning, a last appeal for peace, and a similar one from the King of Hanover.

The Emperor, who had a right to expect the majority of the minority, and the House and says were not ordered, and the House refused to adjourn, but adopted a resolution postponing the adjournment till 5 o'clock.

The Emperor will soon take the field in person, and the Conference Committee's report on the funding bill was agreed to, 143 to 49.

Mr. Atkinson, of the Committee on Education and Labor, made a report on the character of General Howard. The majority declare that the House acquire Mr. Howard of the groundless and baseless charges lately preferred against him, and declared their judgment that in successfully organizing the Freedmen's Bureau he is deserving of the gratitude of the American people. The report was signed by Messrs. Arnold, Bassett, Hoyt, Townsend, Hamlin, Bartlett, Tyler and Pierce.

The members of the minority, and the Republicans, divided on the character of the testimony referred to the Secretary of War, with directions to order a court martial for a trial of Gen. Howard, and recommended that the House adjourn.

Mr. McNeely of Illinois said that the Speaker had no right to adjourn, and the House refused to adjourn, but adopted a resolution postponing the adjournment till 5 o'clock.

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The

THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Poetry.

CHARLES DICKENS.
(At Gadshill, June 9.)

BY R. H. STODDARD.

Gadshill in Devon. What of old
To the world's soul it made it dear;
Whether what country gospels told,
Spoke there with men of kindred mind,
Loos, yet the largest of mankind—
11.

We know not, and we need not care;
What we have done we leave to the place,
And wait in pensiveness there
The memory of our wrongs still
Peculiarly thine spirit still
Hounds all the lairs of Gadshill!

M.

Could Shakespeare, with prophetic eye,
See the world's soul it made it dear,
And yet not grieve and wise?
As what man since hath been
To make such a life as this?
The last of life of coming days—
17.

We should have chosen out of all
Dickens, as knowing most men,
But he was not fit to be our guide,
That was to watch them.
Long live, but much shall shake?

V.

Scar'd to all but Shakespeare's shade,
And to his ghosts of crownless kings,
He had no other thoughts than death,
And high, heroic things;
Is Strode fit to no mortal dare
Distrust to himself and reversal air!

V.

The Gadshill, whither Falstaff went
From Cheshire (and to back he came),
Merrily fat—on plumper head—
What spot of English earth so fit
For one with more than Falstaff's wit?

V.

Nay, Shakespeare's Falstaff was not his peer
In that humane and happy art
To walk at once the soul and tear
Make room, then, Shakespeare: this is he
Has taken the shores of myth from these.
VIII.

The world of blind and queen is thine;
Then hast the soldier's scholar?—yes;
England and Rome, Greece, "Troy divine"—
Hamlet, Othello, Lear
Howe's camp, Howe's army on yellow sands,
And all the scenes of fiery lands!

X.

This common, wavy world of ours,
Our little lives of love and care,
Green lawns, where children gather flowers;
And Loss's merry air, and
There's no camp, no army, in which they drown;

XI.

These were the things that Dickens knew;
Before the eight days dreams had passed;
It is indeed, he was gladwood now!
For sorrow should not last;
Happy days are here again;
Whose like to be to thy kind!

XII.

Healthy life's a gift, above;
A true friend's gift, a sympathizer;
What others hated he could love,
And what they loved despise.
His worth is not often seen;
That's Thackeray's lesson, Byron's scorn.

XIII.

He taught as virtuous first and last;
He taught as friends stand for;—
The patience of the poor;
The patience of the good and small,
And true to Beowulf, Over All,

XIV.

This gave him more than royal sway;
The benefactor of the race,
He who could make the world away
They drop to day from many a eye;
He drives them, but he cannot dry!

XV.

The hand is still that held his bow;
His eyes are shut, but not in sleep;
We weep for him, but the bow is bent;
Who no other more the bow can bend,
Laughter no more the house shall fill,
For Death is Master at Gadshill!

XVI.

—Heart and Home.

Our Story-Teller.

THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION.

BY MRS. MULOCHE.

Between ten and twenty years ago—the precise date is immaterial—there was a young New York a barber's shop, a young boy named Newell Vaudre, while his Dutch lineage was indicated by his surname, which, in course of years and generations, had been corrupted from Vauder Dest to Vandrest, while for his scriptural name he was indebted to a worthy Quaker; this man had a son, and this son had come over with William Penn. These names were in trust, all the boy owed to his progenitors, as from his cradle he had been an orphan, cast on the charity of the wide world. But the excellent son to whom Reuben's mother had belonged was one of the few who never forgot his birthright, and the boy's birthright was not forgotten.

The Friends took care of him, and when he was able to earn a livelihood, one of their number received him as an apprentice. Such was the short and simple story of the barber's boy.

Every human being has some life, which the outside world sees not, and in which his earliest childhood, the passion of Reuben Vandrest, had been music. He would follow the itinerant musicians of the city through one street after another, often thus losing his meals, his rest, everything except his schoolboy's appetite, the foolish belief he was too wise to take care of his mouth.

He made friends with blind pipers, Italian hurdy-gurdyists, and, above all, with wandering fiddlers; for, with intuitive perception, the violin—the prince of stringed instruments, was his chief favorite. And so the boy, the wandering fiddler, learned Reuben's ways, on gaining something. They were on his childish manners and earnest admiration—for love of praise is the same in a blind fiddler as in an opera singer—and by degrees Reuben not only listened but learned to play. No instrument came easier to him, and he soon became a master of it, and did it with this simplest of all orchestral voices, the poor harcer's boy used to creep to his гарет and there strive, with his stout ear and retentive memory, to make out the tunes which had head in the streets, or invent others.

But the boy's life was coming. One day as he stood wistfully looking at a violin which he held in his arms fondly and lingeringly, prior to returning it to its right owner, a poor street musician, the idea of its construction first entered Reuben's mind. He had been accustomed to regard a violin as a mysterious thing—a self-creating, sound-producing being—and never once had he considered that what it was made, or how.

Now he began to peer into its mysteries, and to find out that it was only wood and guttural after all. He questioned his master, and the man marveled at the boy's interest in a lifetime without a thought of the mechanism of his instrument. True, he could replace a broken string and at times even manufacture a bridge with his pen-knife, but that was all. When Reuben inquisitively wanted to know how violin-making was done, the fiddler shook his head and said he did not know.

"Do you think I could make one?" pursued the anxious boy.

A burst of laughter, so cuttingly derisive that Reuben's face crimsoned, was the only answer.

"Yes," said the master, "I cried the fiddler when his master had said, 'surely you are not so silly as to try. You could as soon build a house as make a violin.'

"But violin must be made by somebody!"

"Yes, people who know all about it; not by a lad like you. Take my advice and stay out of it."

Reuben said no more; but he could not get the idea from his mind. Every violin that he saw begged to look at it; he examined the varieties of construction of wood used, and the thickness and fashion of the neck, and the quality of the varnish. He at last determined to try and make one for himself.

In one of those elegant mansions Vandrest again heard the name which had never utterly gone from his memory through all his vicissitudes.—Cora Darcie.

He turned round, and saw the altered looks of the girl who had held the cup of water to his lips on the night of her birth. She had grown into a woman, but had lost the faintest memory of him. How could it be?

Light and darkness were not more different than the poor man's life and that of the rich. He was introduced to her, and the pale, angular ill-clad little boy whom she had pitied and aided.

Reuben thought he would remind her of the circumstances of his birth, and, in great fear of his life, he told her his secret, and she pitied him.

But one day a kind hearted customer noticed the slight, thin boy, and argued his looks so gently and carefully that Reuben could afford a moment's repose. He flew to buy a gun—an old bow, and with trembling hands strung his instrument.

He can describe the important moments. Leveret's cross-ways new plan, Lord Rempel's first attempt to draw sounds from his violin. The sounds came; string after string was tuned: the bow was applied, and the violin a note. Pebble and thin the notes were, but the boy had made soft music, and his heart, too, quivered with joy.

He played tune after tune; he never noticed that evening getting dark, he forgot his supper; and soon the enthusiasm of his instrument, and his unfeeling, would long since have come into his bones—that, though the childish boy might pass muster in the hands of his master, a violin never would.

The good quaker, one of the strictest of his sect, was as good as any. The boy, who was picture Reuben's connoisseur when his guitar died, opened and his master stood before him.

Reuben bore all Ephraim's wrath in silence; only he

took good care to keep his darling violin safe from the fingers of his master.

"You have been neglecting thy work and stealing fiddle," said the angry man.

"I have not neglected my work," timidly answered the boy, "and I have not stolen the violin—indeed I have not."

"How didst thou get it?"

Old Ephraim looked surprised. All the music in the world was nothing to him; but he had a taste for mechanical employments, and the idea of making a violin was as ingenious. He examined it and found it was very poor.

"I am sorry for you, Mr. Vandrest," said the blunt but not ill-meaning citizen. "But it is impossible that you can ever hope for Cora's love, and recovering her heart, and despairing, poor Reuben declared his hidden and treasured love, first with the timidity of a man who sees his inner heart laid bare, and then with the firmaces given by a consciousness that there is in that heart nothing for which an honest man need blush.

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